Mat-Su Monitor

February 2015 VOLUME 37 NUMBER 3

MSC Learning Center

MSC

Math Cram Jam

Feel like screaming "HEEEEEELP!" when it comes to math?

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-x^2} dx = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}$$

Want company when you study for math Midterms???

Come to the MSC Cafeteria for food & studying.

Math faculty will be available to answer questions.

Saturday, February 21 and 28

9:00 – 2:00

The Mat-Su Carbon Crew Gets Busy

By Lori Leahy

The wind is blowing, the sky is clear and crisp, and most faint-hearted folks are indoors, curled up on the couch in front of the television. Not so the Mat-Su Carbon Crew. They've got a mission to accomplish, people to encourage, and paths to forge! The Mat-Su Carbon Crew, officially one of the "clubs" here at Mat-Su College, is out there trying to motivate and raise the awareness of not only the students at the college, but the community at large about the small, yet effective things that each and every person can do to make the planet and our local ecosystem a cleaner and more hospitable place to live. The fact that these small efforts ultimately may help to keep the greenhouse gasses from warming the planet to a point of un-livability is just a small, added perk!

David Johnson, president and founder of the Carbon Crew, originally began a class project with six other students in the spring of 2010 to help the Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) put together a business plan. That project ultimately evolved into what is today the college's own eco-friendly awareness club. Johnson says the main goal of the club is to help make people wake up to what is happening to the planet, and most importantly, what they can do on a small scale to help. He says there is plenty that each of us can do in little ways that will make a huge difference, adding that, "As individuals, we can make a big difference, but think what we could do together."

Celebrate Earth Day, April 22, at the college

The Carbon Crew's mission statement says, "We endeavor to increase awareness of reduce, reuse, and recycle. We will encourage growing more local food, planting home gardens, and using renewable energy sources for heat and light. We will push for the creation of green collar jobs and for developing new products from recovered and renewable resources." To say that David is enthusiastic about what he is trying to accomplish is an understatement, but he was quick to point out, "It is not me, it's all of us." Johnson feels that the college should offer more sustainability classes, but he says that UAA is actually talking about removing the environ-

Continued on page 15

Mat-Su College Student Ambassadors

In cooperation with

Student Government

are pleased to announce

Spring Carnival in the Atrium

Tuesday, March 3

Watch for flyers around campus.

Glenn Massey Theater

Grand Opening Feb. 7th

The Glenn Massy Theater located on the Mat-Su College campus is now open! For Events Date and times visit:

http://www.glennmassaytheater.com/

Why does anybody tell a story?

Editorial by Jacob Mann, Editor

"We tell stories because we can't help it."- Madeleine L'Engle

Alaskan Native storytelling is often centered around a theme or moral implication which is meant to engage the audience. The meaning of the story is left to be thought about. How it affects one's life is up to them.

The story of the Matanuska-Susitna Valley has always been a tale of growth and change. It is a community scattered across vast plains and winding roads that stretch for miles. The Mat-Su Valley has small towns enclosed in the arms of mountains. Farmlands used to be the heart of the community and train tracks were the veins flowing the narrative of Alaska.

Up north - new opportunities laid in fertile soil. It's a story with romantic notions and historic ties to where residents stand today.

The past two decades have made the Mat-Su Valley the fastest growing area in Alaska. Anchorage ran out of room and people are looking for ways to bridge the gap or ferry across the problem - both of these solutions have hemorrhaged money from the residents and collected dust and broke promises for many years. The language of politicians on either side has always been designed to cover bases and weave great tales of success - a bright future.

2015 - It is 85 years after F.D.R and the U.S government took interest in Alaska and sent colonies of farmers with the hope of a fresh start - a "New Deal." A season of elections has passed. New policies are in effect and the communities across the state are gathering over where the story goes from here.

Alaska still runs on oil. The price of a barrel has dropped from $110 to $50.

The people are still bought off by the corporations thanks to acts such as "Citizen's United."

It was the warmest year on record but most people still need to plug in their car. It's cheaper to drive since gas prices dropped.

Marijuana has been legalized and farmers have the chance to grow new crops while other farmers and "hobbyists" have the chance to rise from the underground. Concerned parents are worried how the plants are packaged and young adults rushed to voting booths to vote on one proposition, knowing little to nothing at all about the others.

Retailer chains still own most of the food consumed by residents, who mostly stay inside watching Netflix.

College education funds have been cut, staff across the state have lost jobs.

In Wasilla, a community event centered around the homeless had its 5th year of collaboration and support.

A language bill was passed making 20 Alaska Native languages official to the state - "symbolically."

Suicide drug/alcohol-related deaths in Alaska are still the highest in the nation.

"We tell stories because they fill the silence death imposes. We tell stories because they save us." - Madeleine L'Engle

The Matanuska-Susitna Valley and Alaska itself were romanticized. Stories of a fresh start and opportunities have always enticed people to leave their home. The story of the Mat-Su is that of Alaska, it has always been a tale of colonization.

Through hardships and frigid cabins with busted pipes, the indigenous peoples overruled by the newcomers, the ongoing assimilation, modernization, gold rushes and pipelines - for better or worse, that is the story. Adversary and teamwork. Racism and social reform. There have been many words shared in the tale up north. It is up to you to decide what it means to you.

Summer may be short in Alaska but that doesn't mean life must stand still. Life goes

on, with or without your say in the matter. The lives of those around you are all stories. The decisions made are not the sole matter of the government and the webs they weave.
They spin yarns, stories for the masses but the masses still have a right - A RIGHT TO SAY SOMETHING, TO SPEAK UP FOR WHAT MATTERS.

THEY SAY ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

ACTIONS ARE STORIES.

OUR HISTORY MAY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN,

BUT OUR FUTURE IS A WHITE BLANK PAGE.

LET'S WRITE SOMETHING. ALASKA, WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
"Why does anybody tell a story?
It does indeed have something to do with faith. Faith that the universe has meaning, that our little human lives are not irrelevant, that what we choose or say or do matters, matters cosmically."
- Madeleine L'Engle

Let's frontier like it's our last. Let's grow in the ice and rise into the warm midnight sun.

2014-15 MSC Student Ambassadors

By Mike Swanson

The Mat-Su College Student Ambassador Program provides emerging student leaders with opportunities to develop their leadership, teamwork, communication, and other professional skills. Student Ambassadors play an instrumental role in projecting to the campus and surrounding community the image of Mat-Su College as a high-quality academic institution with a uniquely student-centered focus.

This year there are six Student Ambassadors (SAs). The team consists of:

Everret Hamilton: Everret is in his second year as a Student Ambassador. He recently completed his Associate degree from MSC and is continuing on toward a Bachelor of Business Administration. Everret is also the President of the Student Government Council at MSC. Outside of MSC, Everret is the lead singer and guitarist for Damage Done, an American heavy metal band from Anchorage, Alaska.

Margaret Koeneman: Margaret is in her third year as a Student Ambassador. She is completing a Bachelor of Arts in Art and plans on a career in illustration. The SAs benefit from her artistic talents and acerbic wit.

Nadia Myers: Nadia is a first year Student Ambassador. She is also the Vice-President of the Student Government Council at MSC. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Art. She brings additional artistic talent for graphic design and illustration.

L-R (Margaret, Everret, Nadia, Charity & Anastasia.) Not pictured: Yana Sinyawski

Charity Pingayak: Charity is in her second year as a Student Ambassador. She came to Mat-Su College through Mt. Edgecumbe High School and is from the village of Chevak. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration. The SAs benefit from Charity's easy going personality and friendliness. She has a talent for voice impressions that she occasionally will showcase for the group.

Anastasia Sinyawski: Anastasia is a first year Student Ambassador. She is in the University Honors College pursuing a double-major of Political Science and International Studies. The SAs benefit from her drive and planning abilities.

Yana Sinyawski: Yana is in her second year as a Student Ambassador. Yana is completing a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and Finance. Yana brings a quiet confidence and quality control to the group.

February FAFSA Frenzy

Each February, the University of Alaska celebrates February FAFSA Frenzy. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is your first step in applying for federal, state and scholarship monies.

The FAFSA is also a requirement of UA specific scholarships, the Alaska Performance Scholarships, and the baseline for the Alaska Education Grant and Supplemental Educational Opportunity grants from UAA.

- **Notice that the first word in the FAFSA acronym is Free. Don't pay to complete your FAFSA. Make sure you go to the right website: www.fafsa.ed.gov.**
- **You can complete your FAFSA even if your 2014 taxes are not yet complete.**
- **Mat-Su College Financial Aid advisors can assist you if you need help with your FAFSA.**

Please come in to Student Services if you want to learn more about the FAFSA or about Financial Aid.

COLLEGE GOAL ALASKA
Financial Aid Assistance

Hello all,

I have recently received a letter from Mat-Su Food Bank. In this letter they thanked us for donating 126 pounds of various food products. They currently serve 3000 clients and thanked us for our generosity -- "because no one should go hungry."

On behalf of Mat-Su Student Government I would like to thank you all for the food donations. Keep up the good work.

-- Everret F.N. Hamilton, President of Student Government Council

Anyone interested in contacting the Palmer Food Bank for donations or assistance can call 745-3565 from 1-5 Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays. – Editor.

We here at the Mat-Su Monitor are always open to reporting on community events, especially if they somehow pertain to the college. In this case, we are pleased to publish this schedule of free "solid, practical, information, action-oriented" sessions offered by the Wasilla and Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District as part of its third Winter Conservation Series. These classes are on Thursday nights from 7:00-8:30 PM in room FSM 103 of Mat-Su College. For more information, contact Chuck Kaucic at 357-4511 between 10 AM and 4 PM on weekdays or email

distmgr@wasillaswcd.org.

Session Presenter Date

Planting for Beauty and Wildlife / Rosa Meehan / **February 26**

Gardening with Moose -- How to enjoy both Moose and Gardens Together / Rosa Meehan / **March 5**

ATV Salmon Stream Crossings: The Intersection of Machines and Man / Chuck Kaucic / **March 12**

Wild Edible and Medicinal Plants / Rachel Bobka / **March 19**

3 W's: Wallin's Wonderful Worms / Paul and Sue Wallin / **March 26**

Introduction to Alaskan Gardening / Carol Kenley / **April 9**

Tree Care, Maintenance, and Pruning / Steve O'Sullivan / **April 16**

Big Brothers Big Sisters looking for Volunteers

By Michelle Sharpe

Are you interested in putting a smile on a child's face? Or just giving a young person some one on one time and forming a friendship that will positively impact their lives? Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is seeking volunteers in order to accomplish these goals. BBBS is an organization that matches adults (Bigs) with children (Littles) who need a little extra adult attention. If you're interested in volunteering, here are some questions (and answers) to help you get a picture of the program.

How do I become a Big Brother/Sister?

To become a Big Brother or Sister, there is a volunteer enrollment process that includes an in-person interview, background checks and references. This process helps us to determine what youth and volunteer might make a good match. We look at volunteer and parent/child preferences, interests and past experiences. Matching Bigs and Littles that have existing commonalities helps the match connect and begin to build a meaningful friendship.

Michelle and Toeme

How many Littles are there waiting for a match?

There are about 20 Littles waiting to be matched; the majority are Little Brothers. BBBS is always looking for volunteers, primarily male, that are interested in providing a positive male role model for a child.

What are some activities that Bigs can do with their Littles?

Bigs and Littles are able to do any activity that they both enjoy (as long as safety precautions are taken and parents/guardians approve). Whether it's fishing, hiking, going to the movies, volunteering at animal shelters, etc., any positive activity that allows the Big and Little to get to know each other is great. We also like to see Bigs giving their Littles the opportunity to try new things and explore new interests.

Are there any upcoming events at Big Brothers Big Sisters?

Big Brothers Big Sister's annual Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser is coming up on Saturday, March 21. We are currently looking for volunteers to form bowling teams and raise money to support our Valley programs. We have a goal of raising $15,000 and could use all the help we can get!

Still not convinced? Here are a few words from my own Little Sister, Toeme Brown.

Me: Why did you want to be a Little Sister?

Toeme: I didn't have anyone to play with.

Me: When you found out that you finally got a Big Sister, how did you feel?

Toeme: Very excited!

Me: What do you like to do when we have a day?

Toeme: Mostly everything.

Me: So far, what has been your favorite day?

Toeme: Today. [She says this every time I ask her, no matter which day.]

Me: Do you like the activities that BBBS puts on for their Big and Littles?

Toeme: Yeah, like the Survivor one? YES!

Me: Would you recommend other kids to get a Big?

Toeme: YES!

Me: What did you want in a Big Sister?

Toeme: Someone fun, and nice. Mostly nice.

Me: Has there been any changes since you joined?

Toeme: It's been more fun.

Me: Any advice for Bigs or Littles?

Toeme: Be yourself when you have somebody with you.

And there you have it! Volunteering with BBBS is a great experience for all involved. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, or have any questions, contact Chelsea Fields at 907-357-2227 or visit our website at **www.bbbsak.org.**

Mat-Su Health Services

1363 W. Spruce Ave, Wasilla, AK
376-2411 mshsak.org

Integrated Medical and Behavioral Health Care

Improving Treatment of Depression

Depression is a real disease that can be successfully treated.

Talk to a counselor or your doctor if you have these common symptoms:

- **Feeling little interest or pleasure in doing things**
- **Feeling down, depressed or hopeless**

It takes courage to ask for help.

24/7 behavioral crisis line 376-2411

We accept Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance. Sliding fee discount based on income.

GOT COVERAGE?

Health Insurance Marketplace

Get help with your Affordable Care Act application, enrollment, and updates at *Mat-Su Health Services.*

Call 376-2411 and ask for an ObamaCare person

OUR ASSISTANCE IS FREE AND CONDIFIDENTIAL.

Mat-Su Dance Club

By Lori Leahy

I spoke with Katelyn Jordan, dance club representative to student government and member since spring of 2013. She told me that the Dance Club at Mat-Su College currently has 7 – 8 regular members and meets every Friday from 5 – 7 p.m., usually in the Atrium, although she says they are excited to be moving to the foyer of the new theater once it is open, as they need a large room to be able to move around. The members get together for fun and to teach each other basic ballroom style dancing. She says, "We're here on campus to help people build social skills, to become more comfortable with themselves, and release tensions in a good and fun way."

Jordan says the group of dancers is always looking to grow and welcomes new members. She says since she started with the set, there have been many members who have been involved who have kept the group evolving, which has made it fun and interesting, and she's gotten to know many of the students. She says skill level is not important and that they all teach each other. The members have picked up their dance moves from various experiences, including middle and high school, as well as an assortment of community events, or classes.

Polka, waltz, salsa, swing, come and dance, if that's your thing! All are welcome, come one, come all; you'll learn to dance and have a ball! Bring a friend or come alone, novice or gifted; your skills to hone!

Jordan says the club might possibly be adding Monday nights to their schedule, if members are open to it. The Mat-Su College Dance Club has put on three dances in the past, including last Halloween's dance, which was held in the Aloha Cafe. They hope to be hosting another dance soon. So put on your comfortable shoes and come on down on Friday night for a fun time and meet some new students.

KNOW HOW TO ADD?
ENJOY ADDING?

Then consider joining the

MATH CLUB

that Professor Graham is currently organizing.

For more information, contact her at rgraham10@matsu.alaska.edu

INTERNATIONAL CLUB
Are you interested in International Studies?
Are you an international student?
Join us in starting up the MSC International Club!
If you would like to learn more, please contact Dr. Galina Peck.
Email: gpeck@matsu.alaska.edu
Phone: 907-745-9734
Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Students interested in helping others while having a good time are invited to participate in the campus's new

English as a Second Language (ESL) Club

Whether you're an ESL student yourself or speak English as your first language, the ESL club's fun group activities and one-on-one conversations with interesting people will have you forgetting that you're helping to impart (or learn) valuable, real-life lessons about pronunciation, intonation, word choice, and so on.

For more details, contact Professor Galina Peck at gpeck@matsu.alaska.edu

YOUR CLUB'S AD COULD BE HERE!

CONTACT THE MAT-SU MONITOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Major League Baseball Top Ten Free Agents

By Sam Ouellette

1. Max Scherzer, Position: P

Signed to a six-year, $210 million dollar contract with the Washington Nationals.

Why it fits? I was surprised about this signing. However, with this signing an already impressive Washington starting rotation transforms into a downright scary pitching rotation.

2. Jon Lester, Position: P

Signed to a six-year, $155 million dollar deal with the Chicago Cubs.

Photo by Keith Allison

Why it fits? Jake Arrieta and Kyle Hendricks are both coming off solid performances last year and adding Lester to the starting rotation changes the landscape of this team while solidifying the pitching rotation.

3. James Shields, Position: P

Remains unsigned.

4. Pablo Sandoval, Position: 3B

Signed to a five-year, $95 million dollar contract with the Boston Red Sox.

Why it fits? Looking to bolster their offense after going 71-91 a year removed from a

World Series championship the Sox nab a big bat in Sandoval to upgrade their offense.

5. Andrew Miller, Position: SP

Signed to a four-year, $36 million dollar contract with the New York Yankees.

Why it fits? The best relief pitcher in free agency goes to the team that needs him the most. The Yankees pitching staff struggled heavily last year and adding a strong relief pitcher will give their starters a strong arm to finish games.

6. Victor Martinez, Position: DH

Signed to a 4-year, $68 million dollar contract with the Detroit Tigers.

Why it fits? Detroit needed to keep their DH Martinez. He's a big bat and protection for Cabrera, which is necessary if they want to keep their offense strong.

7. Russell Martin, Position: C

Signed to a five-year, $82 million deal with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Why it fits? The Blue Jays used four different catchers in the 2014 season. Signing Martin, the best catcher in free agency, gives them an offensive upgrade and stability at the catching position.

8. Nelson Cruz , Position: OF/DH

Signed to a four-year, $58 million dollar contract with the Seattle Mariners.

Why it fits? Singing Robinson Cano in free agency last year gave the Mariners a much needed offensive upgrade and bringing in Cruz will add a bat to further the offense.

9. Hanley Ramirez, Position: SS

Signed to a four-year, $88 million dollar deal.

Why it fits? After trading Jose Iglesias to Detroit and Stephen Drew to the Yankees, Boston needed to find a shortstop. Ramirez will fill that role as well as give some more pop to the offense.

10. Jason Hammel, Position: P

Signed to a two-year, $18 million dollar contract.

Why it fits? After being traded from the Cubs to the A's alongside Jeff Samardzija, Hammel struggled last season. Chicago needed to strengthen their pitching rotation. Adding Lester was a great first step, but bringing Hammel back to Chicago is the next step to solidifying the rotation.

LOVE TO READ?

THEN JOIN THE FIRE READING DRAGONS!

THIS MONTH'S SELECTIONS ARE:

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

Love, Rosie by Cecelia Ahern

Please ask a library staff member if you would like more information about joining or call us at 745-9740.

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed thoughrout the Valley. We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost, B/W	Cost, Color
1/8th page	$75	$125
1/4th page	$125	$175
1/2 page	$175	$225
Full page	$275	$300
Full page, back	Always color	$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call **745-9758.**

Discovering Yourself:

5 Reasons Why You Should Travel Abroad

By Jessica Showalter, Arts/Culture Reporter

All too often, many of us put our dreams of travel aside in favor of our current situation and our perceived limitations. These limitations can be traced back to two things: money and fear. While it is true that money doesn't grow on trees, there are feasible ways you can save and plan for travel. The second most common limitation is fear: fear of the unknown, fear of what others think, fear for our safety, and lastly - the fear of failure. The beauty of travelling abroad is that once you do it, those fears become obsolete.

Travelling abroad is not for everyone, but for those who might have it on their bucket list, here are the 5 reasons you should travel abroad in the immediate future.

1.) Adventure

Adventures are fun, exhilarating and they take us places we never expected to visit. The real root of adventure is comfort with the unknown - to let the road take us wherever it might go. It is where we find a change in scenery, meet new people, learn new things, and sometimes, find out what life is really all about.

2.) Culture

It's easy to forget how ethnocentric our view of the world can be. Put another way, we look at things from a unique perspective that is relative to our own cultural experience. Travelling abroad opens the eyes in a way that cannot be achieved in a classroom or by reading a textbook. Experiencing cultures different from our own can provide a first-hand look at the human experience.

3.) Opportunity

Travelling or studying abroad can open up many doors, especially as students. It can remind us that there is more than one way to do something. I have an example from my own travels in Italy last summer. I was blown away by the pace of everything. Their

Continued on page 10

10 Great 2014 Movies: A Sharpe's Top 10 List

Greetings fellow movie enthusiasts! Are you the kind of person who loves movies but would rather wait for them to come out on DVD to enjoy in your own home than to go pay to sit in a crowded theater? Were there some movies that came out last year that you might have missed? Look no further! Here are 10 movies that came out in 2014 that I thought were great. (Ranked from good to my favorite of the year)

10. Grand Budapest Hotel (Rated R): This quirky movie featured a star-studded cast and a refreshing reimagining of the heist/cat and mouse genre. It's silly, touching and just a fun watch. That said, if you are not a fan of director Wes Anderson (Fantastic Mr. Fox, Moonrise Kingdom), you will probably not be a fan of this either. But if you want something different with a unique style, check this out! ***(Available in the Mat-Su College Library.)***

9. The Lego Movie (Rated PG): Though I was skeptical about whether this movie was going to be good when it first started, I was pleasantly surprised by how awesome this animated movie was. This is a movie that the whole family can enjoy, and if you haven't seen this movie yet, I highly recommend it. Be warned though, the theme song *will* get stuck in your head. (***Available in the Mat-Su College Library.)***

8. X-Men: Days of Future Past (***Rated PG-13)***: 2014 truly was the year of comic book movies, and this was most certainly a welcome addition to that genre. It's an action packed flick and featured complex characters with a carefully thought out plot that is sure to leave you waiting in anticipation for next year's sequel. ***(Available in the Mat-Su College Library.)***

7. Guardians of the Galaxy (Rated PG-13): If there was an award for movie with the best soundtrack, Guardians would win it. This movie was a surprise hit of 2014, and for good reason. The main characters were likeable, the humor was on point, and the story was simple but enjoyable. If you are a fan of the comic book genre or if you enjoy space movies, this is definitely the movie for you.

6. Edge of Tomorrow (Rated PG-13): I am not the biggest Tom Cruise fan, but I know a great action movie when I see one and this was a GREAT action movie. If you are in the mood for a smart, original action flick that just so happens to involve Tom Cruise, check this one out.

5. How to Train Your Dragon 2 (Rated PG): This fantastic movie perfectly illustrates how a sequel should be made. It's more mature, the stakes are higher, the tone is darker, yet it still has humor and themes appropriate for people of all ages. You can't go wrong with this movie. (***Available in the Mat-Su College Library.)***

4. Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (Rated PG-13): Not only was this an awesome sequel/prequel, this was just an overall amazing movie. It has twists and curves, the characters are complex and you will feel conflicted as to who you should be feeling sympathetic for. (***Available in the Mat-Su College Library.)***

3. The Imitation Game (Rated PG-13): Alan Turing is one of those historic men who should be a household name. This movie adequately illustrates what he helped accomplish during WWII and why Alan Turing was such a tragic figure. Definitely watch this movie if you enjoy movies about unsung heroes or if you want to learn about the dawn of computer science.

2. Gone Girl (Rated R): After watching this movie, I am certain that there are few things scarier than marriage. Honestly, the less I tell you about this movie, the better. Just know that if you watch this movie, you're in for a bit of a ride. (***Request it in the library.)***

1.Captain America: The Winter Soldier (***PG-13)***: Yes, this was my favorite movie of the year. This movie had it all: action, an awesome anti-hero, and political intrigue. Trust me, even if you loathe comic book movies, you will have fun with this one. ***(Available in the Mat-Su College Library.)***

So there you have it! Hope this helped you add a few movies to your to-watch list.

If you need some good TV shows to watch, check out some of these titles (all of which are available in the Mat-Su College Library):

1. Fargo: One of the best shows of 2014. If you were a fan of the movie, watch this show. If you hated the movie, you will probably like this show.
2. Arrow: This vigilante show is sure to entertain.
3. Supernatural: This long-running show will frighten and excite you. Check it out.

UA Scholars Program Rises $1,000

By Jacob Mann, Editor

Starting fall 2015, high school students across the state who qualify in the top 10 percent of their class will receive $1,500 per semester from the "UA Scholars Program." This is the first change to the program in over a decade.

On September 23, 2014, the UA Scholars Program raised the award total from $11,000 to $12,000 - a $1,000 increase.

According to the Director of Program Lael Oldmixon, the increase derived from "recognition the award had not increased since 1999" and to "recognize that we still want to attract students from every community to come to the university."

The minimum credit load required to receive benefits rose with the award money.

Students receiving the scholarship will see an increase from a 24 to 30-credit load, starting the second year of the award.

The UA Scholar Program will now award $12,000 divided over four years to high school students based on the academic criteria set by each High School. High schools determine the top 10 percent of their junior classes at the end of the year. Consideration for the award is typically based on cumulative GPA. A specific major is not required for accepting the scholarship.

The amount of students selected depends on the size of the class. Oldmixon gave examples, a small class "... fewer than 15," would select 1 student and "...if there are 400 students in the class, 40 students will get the award."

According to the UA Scholar Program's Mission statement, the goal of the program is to offer an incentive for top high school students in every community in Alaska to attend college within state, specifically the University of Alaska. Oldmixon stated that the program "was intended to attract students from all over the state including rural Alaska…"

Funding for the UA Scholar Program is provided by the Land Trust Fund, approved by the University of Alaska Board of Regents. For more information, visit the webpage: https://www.alaska.edu/scholars/

Snapshot of the Program:

- The award is increasing from $1,375 to $1,500 for each eligible semester.
- Over 6,226 students have accepted the scholarship for at least one semester since the program started.
- As of 2012, 2,240 UA Scholars are enrolled at the University of Alaska.
- As of 2012, UA Scholars have earned a total of 2,585 degrees, certificates and endorsements from the University of Alaska. 55 of the graduates achieved master's degrees.
- The top program choices of UA Scholars are Biological Sciences, Letters, Communication, and Philosophy, with 300 declared majors.

Academic Year: 2015-16

Estimated tuition and fees	$ 5,486
+ Estimated cost of books and supplies	$ 1,575
Total cost for one year at Mat-Su College =	$ 7,061
Estimated other expenses (Personal expenses, transportation, etc.)	$ 3,267
Total Cost after expenses =	$10,328
- UA Scholar Award	$ 3,000
(based on a 2 semester year)	
Total cost for one year at Mat-Su College (after UA Scholar Award) =	$ 4,061
Total Cost after expenses =	$ 7,328

Data based on net price calculator via http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/financialaid/customcf/npcalc.htm

Tuition costs vary

Get involved with YOUR paper!

The Mat-Su Monitor is open to students of all experience levels. A paper like ours always needs writers, artists, graphic designers, advertisement coordinators, photographers, and more (maybe you can contribute something we haven't even thought of)!

Meetings: Mondays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 12:50, in OLB 214 (upstairs in library).

Statistics reported from Fall Semester 2012 via https://www.alaska.edu/scholars/program-overview/stratistics/Non-resident students who restrict their registration to no more than four (4) credits each semester are charged resident tuition. Any credits registered beyond the 4-credit limit will cause all credits to be assessed at the non-resident tuition rate. Note: Tuition does not include activity fee or lab/material fees

Sources:

Card, T. (September 23, 2014). retrieved from http://kdlg.org/post/university-alaska-increases-scholars-award * Mat-Su College Website. (2014). retrieved from http://matsu.alaska.edu/office/student-services/admissions/tuition/

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Together We Ride: A Fire Emblem Awakening Review.

By: Dr. Wily

Platforms: Nintendo 3DS
Rating: T for Teen

Fire Emblem is the perfect example of the saying "Don't judge a book by its cover." What looks like a generic Japanese strategy game holds something much deeper and complex in nature. Fire Emblem was only available in Japan for much of its run, but in 2003 the seventh game in the series came to America under the basic Fire Emblem title. The thirteenth game in the series, Fire Emblem: Awakening was actually slated to be the final game if it didn't sell well. Luckily, it has far exceeded both critic and gamers' expectations.

Fire Emblem games have always had an interesting and complex roster of characters.

Players take on the role of a young wizard named Robin (players can choose their own name and gender) who must join forces with a young prince named Chrom and his band of heroes to defend their country while trying to piece together broken memories. Politics, swords, and magic spells soon combine with the overall narrative to introduce the player to the Fire Emblem world in an easy and organized manner. In most games, one factor of the story or gameplay overshadows the other, but Fire Emblem seems to have struck that perfect balance between having and interesting game making it confusing for newcomers. The plot of the game gets deeper and deeper as the player progresses but it never loses focus with casuals. The story is fairly easy to follow and aside from some gripping moments is largely the same across different playing sessions.

Gameplay is also accessible to newcomers thanks to a choice between classic and casual gameplay modes; the latter mode disables permanent deaths for characters. Gameplay is kept fresh for series veterans by the introduction of some new mechanics have been introduced. The 'Weapon Wheel' is a triangle of rock paper scissors, forcing players to choose between using a sword, lance, bow, axe, or magic tome to attack their foes with. Each weapon has its

Continued on page 15

Discover *Continued from page 10*

average workday included a 2-hour siesta after lunch.

It learned that their emphasis was not on time, but on how it was spent. It seems that we of get boxed in by normality. Stepping outside of what we know can give us invaluable insight into creativity and innovation.

4.) A new perspective

When we open ourselves up to new experiences and abandon comfort, we can gain an entirely different view of the world and ourselves. While travelling abroad, you rely quite heavily on your own capabilities, but also on the strangers around you. The difference between catching the right train and being stranded lies in your willingness to ask for help, as well as with whomever you're asking. Resilience and humility may not be things you'll include in your resume, but they are invaluable traits.

5.) Discover yourself

Above all, travelling abroad can both reaffirm and redefine how we view ourselves. The world is expansive and we remain just a tiny fraction of it, but the more we see, the less we worry about our small footprints. At the same time, we discover how influential such small footprints can be.

Travelling abroad is a wonderful and exciting experience. If you have dreams to see the world, I urge you to do it now and not later! Fear and money are not valid excuses in my book, because at any given time, we are the only person holding ourselves back.

Turn Up the Heat

By Emily Gelino-Bequette

What happens when you give an artist clay, ideas, and fire? Amazing things of course!

This past November the Mat-Su College Handbuilt Ceramics class participated in a two-part Raku firing event coordinated by the always wonderful professor John Barton in conjunction with the MSC art dept., Palmer High School, and members of the art community. Local artist and owner of Arctic Fire Bronzes, Patrick Garley, was kind enough to invite our class to his foundry in Palmer where we used his hand-made propane kiln and facilities to fire a batch of pots, mugs, dishes, and sculptures made especially for Raku firing. With the help and supervision of ceramic artist Sandra Cook and Palmer High School art teacher Shelli Frankowiak, we turned up the heat on a cold November day and made some amazing art. The following weekend, Mr. Garley brought his kiln and all the fun to PHS where the High School ceramics students got to rub shoulders with the College class and local artists while happily glazing, firing, and admiring the 80-100 ceramic pieces that were brought for the event.

What makes Raku different from other ceramic firing is the unpredictability of the chemical reactions in the process. Originally a Japanese method of firing ceramics, this technique involves firing clay vessels in a wood fire kiln until they are glowing hot, or roughly 1500-1800 °F. Then the vessels are taken right from the kiln while the glaze is still molten *(how awesome is that?)* and placed into buckets or a covered pit filled with newspaper, sawdust, animal hair, leaves, powdered chemicals or many other organic materials. These dry materials burst into flame around the ceramic piece *(even more awesome!)* and chemically bond to the molten glaze, creating the final look of the vessel. Raku

Coming to the Machetanz Art Festival this summer

Continued on page 15

ART DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Home of Infinite Possibilities

3D Art Class
presents:
BOOK ART SHOW
March 2015

The imagination of what a book is, brought to life through art.
At FIRESIDE BOOKS downtown Palmer.

Feb. 18– Mar. 18, 2015

High school portfolio contest showcase

This showcase shares the artwork of local high school students who submitted entries to the annual Mat-Su College High School Portfolio Contest.

FRANCINE LONG
solo show
March 25 - April 22
FSM 200.
Francine Long paints in watercolor and oil.

http://francinelongartist.com/

http://matsu.alaska.edu/departments/fine-arts/

YOUR STORY COULD BE HERE!

Write an interesting paper for a class? Experience something on campus that you want to share with others? Have a strong opinion about an issue? Just want to share a poem or short story? Now any student can submit content through the Monitor's webpage! Just Search "Monitor" on the college website to find it.

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The Lazy College Student's Guide to: Research

by the Lazy College Student

"If you gave a lazy man a job, you will find the quickest easiest way to do that job."

- The Lazy College Student

Move over, Sophia. There's a new advice columnist on campus and he's got some tricks up his sleeve. Welcome to the new series of down-to-Earth advice from a fellow college student who knows how to get work done with ease. The Lazy College Student is your guide to tips and tricks, crafted by a seasoned slacker who is

Brief Introduction to HOT KEYS:

open for business - with a new suggestion box available, ready to answer your pressing needs.

*Tip # 1 - **Find***

-The Hot Key Sidekick, Your Right Hand Man While Searching Text-

There's these handy combos every keyboard has, they're called HOT KEYS - use 'em.

If you're unfamiliar with hot keys and how they work, I'll shed some light on the concept:

hot keys (or shortcut keys) are combinations of multiple keys on a keyboard pressed at once at once to - well, do something. You wanna' take a screenshot of what you're looking at? There's a hot key for that:

PC: Alt + Print Screen, or for Mac: Command + Shift + 4

Wanna' start up task manager so you can close an application that's acting up? There's a hot key for that:

PC: Ctrl + Alt + Del or for Mac: Command + option + esc

Point is: if you invest just a few moments of your precious lazy time to memorize hot keys, you can save time with your new computer whizz skills. Try printing a cheat sheet. I could write a whole article on about the many perks of hot keys. In fact, I probably will so keep an eye out folks.

So now that you're up to speed on how hot keys work, I'll introduce you to my best friend, Find. I have a feeling you two will spark up a wonderful relationship and become best friends too. Here's the hot key for Find:

PC: Ctrl + F or for Mac: Command + F

This hot key will save you time, all the time. When you are searching for information and gathering sources for your research, you're going to have specific terms to look for on this journey for knowledge. Find will allow to you easily jump to these keywords.

These keywords will be highlighted within the text and you can click the > next arrow to jump to each keyword.

Let's say you're researching gluten and its effects on the body. As you're going through the articles, you will find out there's a lot of text to sift through and there will be many supporting points on the topic of gluten, which are great and all but uh, yeah...

You've got slackin' to do so let's highlight the parts we're looking for first before we invest any time reading the rest of the article (yeah, I'm sure you'll read that whole thing). So let's cut to the chase and enter our hotkey for find, a bar pops up in the top right hand corner. Ok, so now let's type gluten in there. Nice! 21 matches. Let's skip around to the parts that we care about, the effects on the body. An article describing gluten will (likely) cover a range of topics - perhaps the economic or moral implications. That's nice and all but we're looking for the health effects. As we jump around, we can read and/or copy the parts the work for our main points. Now try effects or body. Just remember to pick broad terms that can easily take you where you need.

Bottom Line: using the Find hot key will help you jump around articles much quicker than the old-fashioned method of skimming. This is probably going to be the most used time saving technique you will take from this set of tips and tricks this list which is why it is # 1 on the list.

HAVE SOME QUESTIONS? TRY ONE OF THESE FREE TUTORING SERVICES.

Live online tutoring: Tutor.com provides free online tutoring in math, science, English, history, and other subjects. The service is available to Alaska residents at tutor.com/alaska from 1 PM to Midnight. Qualifying military families can visit tutor.com/military.

Video tutoring: Khan Academy has videos explaining concepts in math, science, economics and history. These are free to view at khanacademy.org.

Foreign language tutoring: The Mango Languages website, which can be used for free by visiting http://libraries.mangolanguages.com/alaska/start, offers interactive training for a variety of languages, including French, German, Spanish, and English as a Second Language.

On-campus tutoring at the Mat-Su College Learning Center: The Mat-Su College Learning Center (located in OLB 121, across from the library) offers free tutoring.*

Learning Center tutoring schedule

American Sign Language
Mon: 2:00-4:00
Wed: 2:00-4:00

Biology
Tues: 9:15-10:15
Thur: 9:15-10:15

Chemistry
Tues: 9:15-10:15
Thur: 9:15-3:45

Math
Mon: 9:00-5:00
Tues: 9:15-5:00
Wed: 9:00-5:00
Thur: 9:15-3:45

Math
Fri: 10:00-4:00
Sat 12:00-4:00

Physics
Thur 10:15-3:45

Statistics
Tues 9:15-10:15
Thur 9:15-10:15

Writing
Mon 9:00-5:00
Tues 9:00-5:00
Wed 9:00-4:00
Thur 10:00-4:00
Fri 10:00-4:00

*Tutoring is available only for students enrolled n MSC courses

Hours are subject to change.
Tutors available Jan 14-Apr 29.

For more information, visit the Learning Center website at http://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/the-learning-center/, or call at 745-9713.

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, a new advice column that will appear regularly in the Mat-Su Monitor. If you have a question you'd like to see answered submit it in the Ask Sophia box in the lobby of the FSM building.

Q. Dear Sophia,
I am an older male. I go out of my way to stay busy. Even with this effort I still get lonely. Do you have any suggestions on what I might do to battle this loneliness? Mr. Lonely.

A. Dear Mr. Lonely,
I am sorry that you feel so lonely. Perhaps, if you are able, you could get a pet. If you are uninterested in pets, but like animals, then you could volunteer your time at an animal shelter. Animals are proven to help people feel less lonely (of course, this doesn't apply to everyone because everyone is different).

If you are uninterested in animal interaction, then you could attend events and/or meetings (such as Student Government, a Magic: The Gathering get together, etc.) to meet people with whom you might want to hang out with, that is if you are interested in human interaction. I hope you are able to feel less lonely. If this was unhelpful, please write us again!

Q. Dear Sophia: Please ask students why are you still eating messy foods in classrooms

A. Dear Reader,
I am afraid I cannot personally ask students why they eat messy foods in the classrooms, simply because I do not have the ability to track down such students and ask them. However, you have the ability to kindly ask the students you witness eating messy foods in classrooms to eat in the cafeteria or to clean up after they are finished eating. You can even remind them that all classrooms have a no food or drink policy (although, many professors do allow students to eat and drink during their class periods).

Q. Dear Sophia: Why doesn't MSC offer Interior Graphics courses? They offer interior design.

A. Dear Reader,
I am unsure of the reason why MSC does not offer an Interior Graphics class. However, you can request a class at Academic Affairs, which is located in JKB (past the cafeteria).

A	Y	G	N	I	W	O	N	S	R	S	C	T	S	E
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Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

_ _ _ _

Borough libraries link with others in expanded network

By Jacob Mann, Editor

October 28th 2014 - Mat-Su Borough libraries have merged into the library partnership known as the "Joint Library Catalog," which until now consisted of the public libraries of Juneau and Anchorage and the academic libraries of UAA and UAS campuses, among others. Patrons at all of these libraries now have borrowing privileges from most of the state's large libraries (with the Fairbanks libraries being the main exception).

For Mat-Su College students, the merger means their student ID card now provides easy access to the 300,000 items in borough libraries. For borough residents, the merger means that they now can check out the 1.1 million items that already existed in the Joint Library Catalog.

Books can be looked up in the Joint Library Catalog, checked out online, and delivered to a library of the user's choosing. This means that a library user in Talkeetna can, with a single mouse click, have material sent from Juneau to her local library.

For Mat-Su College students, this is yet another expansion to the ever growing archive of information available on their path to higher learning.

Complete list of libraries now in the Joint Library Catalog:

Alaska State Library
Anchorage Museum
Anchorage Public Library
ARLIS
Big Lake Public Library
Juneau Public Libraries
Palmer Public Library
Sealaska Heritage Institute
Sutton Public Library
Talkeetna Public Library
Trapper Creek Public Library
UAA/APU Consortium Library
UAA Homer Library
UAA Kenai Library
UAA Kodiak Library
UAA Mat-Su Library
UAS Egan Library
Valdez Consortium Library
Wasilla Public Library
Willow Public Library.

Announcing the Alaska Native Cultures Club!

Now is your chance to be a founding member of the Mat-Su College Alaska Native Cultures Club. Contact Mike Swanson mpswanson@matsu.alaska.edu) or Lisa Schwarzburg (llschwarzburg@alaska.edu) for more details.

Carbon Crew *Continued from page 1*

ment program from the college altogether. The focus is elsewhere right now, he says, when we should be paying more attention. "We should be running, and we're not even walking."

Many people in the community do not even know that a recycling center exists here in the valley. VCRS is a drop-off center where residents can bring their pre-sorted items. He's hoping VCRS will eventually add a single-stream recycling system, which (change: has recyclables picked up) has recyclables picked up at the curb and sorts them elsewhere; that way people will do more recycling and less throwing away. According to Johnson, everything we put into the dump (or throw onto the roadside) eventually breaks down and releases carbon and eight different gasses into the atmosphere, "including methane, and some that are much worse than that." Adding that, "Carbon dioxide is the major pollutant right now, we see the litter, but the bigger pollution we don't see is the gas, but it all creates CO2." We can all make small changes, like driving less, buying more fuel-efficient cars, and planting a garden. "Less than 50 years ago Alaska produced more than 50% of its own food, including meat, dairy, and vegetables; today we produce less than 5%." Getting back to self-sustainability here in Alaska will help only help the bigger problem by lowering gas usage, helping the local economy, and additionally creating less waste.

The Carbon Crew is currently working on several different projects. There is the on-going venture of volunteering at VCRS, which he says is open for anyone who wants to help out at the recycling facility. Volunteering is a good way to raise awareness of the importance of recycling, as well as helping individuals to feel more connected to the community. The crew is also working on the path clearing project at the arboretum on the campus. The arboretum, which is actually a "pinetum" because it consists of 17 different species of cold weather pine trees, was planted 25 years ago and is located on four acres of campus property. The copse had been lost, or forgotten, and then recently re-discovered. Perhaps the most well known of its type is in Central Park in New York City, and has fewer species of trees. The Carbon Crew is working towards readying the pinetum for eventual public viewing, and is currently clearing a trail through the grove, past the landfill, and to the recycling center beyond.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has!" - Margaret Mead

Another big event the crew is putting together is a celebration of Earth Day, on April 22, at the college. The Sutton-based Overby Family Band has been invited to play for the affair. The Overbys, an "old-timey" folk band, is responsible for organizing the Granite Creek Picker's Retreat and has performed at the Alaska Folk Festival, a huge musical event held each year in Juneau. There will also be other events happening on Earth Day, for which the Carbon Crew is busy preparing.

The ultimate goal of any sustainability program is not just about the environment, Johnson feels. It's also about maintaining the cultures of Alaska, providing good-paying green jobs, and ultimately making lives better for all of Alaskans. He encourages and invites all of you to join in and lend a hand, not only with the Carbon Crew, but any club here at the college. It can only make your college experience a better one, and the college as a whole a better place. You can make a difference!

Fire Emblem *Continued from page 10*

own strengths and weaknesses against the others and in turn that just adds another layer of complexity to an already tried and true system. Player characters can learn skills and abilities to enhance their strength or gain an extra turn in battle. They can even use a special item to change their class and turn into something else to learn another skill they normally wouldn't be able to learn.

Relationships are also now an integral part of Fire Emblem. When it was announced the marriage feature caused some fans to cry out that Nintendo was 'selling out' to Western players in an attempt to sell more copies and be 'edgy.' In actuality, relationships are a serious addition. They take time to build, and can be affected if one of the characters dies in battle. The scripts for these interactions are well written and replete with witty banter that escalate in intimacy and romance until the two finally fall in love.

The most interesting thing about this is that they just don't fall in love within a few sentences. Their attraction to each other is actually built by the player, who can mix and match their characters through the Pair Up system. This system allows the player to put two characters together and have them teamed up on the battlefield.

Fire Emblem: Awakening is one of the best RPG games on the market right now. It's been out for some time, so it is already available for purchase. The game combines complex characters and addicting gameplay with robust skill building statistics and special weapon damage system. Fire Emblem now has a bright future ahead thanks to Awakening. The game itself has become a hit with fans everywhere. Will you join?

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Raku *continued from page 11*

firing produces a wide range of looks including brassy, smooth bronze, shiny copper, tarnished copper, pearly, iridescent, crackle, or sparkly with colors like deep blues, reds, greens, purple, or soot black. The results depend on the glaze, the materials in the burn buckets, what sat next to it while firing, how hot the kiln is, and what type of clay was used to make it. There is really no predicting exactly what the piece will look like, so half the fun is the surprise at the end!

The best part of the whole event was how it brought people together for an artistic experience. When asked how he felt about the event, Mr. Barton said, "It was successful on multiple levels from bringing members of the community to experiencev a unique and exciting artistic process that epitomizes the essence of individual and group creative processes that go into building a community of artists and creating a world of art." Mr. Barton and Director of the MSC Art Department Felicia Desimini both anticipate that there will be further collaborations and cooperative efforts in the future as a result of connections and discussions which developed as a result of these Raku events.

Personally, I had a blast with the ceramic firing. It was great fun all through the process and it was better than Christmas opening up the ash buckets to discover what amazing artwork came out. I recommend to anyone who enjoys artwork to try this out. There are also opportunities to make beautiful artwork with fire at the annual Iron Pour event in Palmer each summer, and do check out the Machetanz Art Festival Facebook page for information about community art classes June 5 and 6 at the Mat-Su College.

Mat-Su College in partnership with the National Organization For Women present:

EQUINOX 3/21 2015 WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL

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matsu.alaska.edu/lunafest-equinox

*Some films may not be suitable for small children

NOW NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN MAT-SU

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

MY House
You're Welcome Here